

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

APPLICATION OF SI WIRELESS, LLC TO)	CASE NO.
RELINQUISH ITS (HIGH COST) ELIGIBLE)	2019-00385
TELECOMMUNICATION CARRIER DESIGNATION)	

ORDER

On June 25, 2012, the Commission granted the request of SI Wireless, LLC (SI Wireless), for designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC).¹ SI Wireless was authorized to receive Federal High-Cost and Low-Income support for the purpose of providing Lifeline, in addition SI Wireless was eligible to receive Low-Income support from the State Universal Service Fund. On October 15, 2019, SI Wireless petitioned the Commission pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(4) for relinquishment of its ETC status in Kentucky.

SI Wireless is a facilities-based wireless provider serving customers in Western Kentucky, as well as portions of Tennessee. SI Wireless has not applied for or received any High-Cost support from the Federal Universal Service Fund.² SI Wireless is currently serving 413 lifeline customers in Kentucky.³

Under § 214(e)(4) of the Act, a State commission shall permit a carrier to relinquish its ETC designation in any area served by more than one ETC. Following relinquishment

¹ Case No. 2012-00145, In the Matter of the Application of SI Wireless, LLC for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the Commonwealth of Kentucky (Ky. PSC June 25, 2012).

² Application at 2.

³ *Id.* at 4.

of SI Wireless's ETC designation, there will continue to be several ETCs in the study area that provide Lifeline. Because other ETCs currently serve the entire area in which SI Wireless is designated an ETC in Kentucky, notice does not need to be provided to those carriers to permit them to purchase or construct facilities to ensure that SI Wireless's customers will continue to receive service.

SI Wireless has proposed to provide written notice by U.S. mail to each of its then-current Lifeline customers in Kentucky advising that they will no longer provide Lifeline service discounts. The notices will inform these customers that the monthly Lifeline credit will be discontinued January 6, 2020. The notices will further inform each customer that Lifeline discounted service may be obtained from one of the remaining ETCs in the area. SI Wireless is not activating any new Lifeline subscribers in Kentucky as of the date of its application.⁴

47 USC § 214 (e)(4) states in part:

The state commission shall permit an eligible telecommunications carrier to relinquish its designation as such a carrier in any area served by more than one eligible telecommunications carrier. An eligible telecommunications carrier that seeks to relinquish its eligible telecommunications carrier designation for an area served by more than one eligible telecommunications carrier shall give advance notice to the State commission of such relinquishment. Prior to permitting a telecommunications carrier designated as an eligible telecommunications carrier to cease providing universal service in an area served by more than one eligible telecommunications carrier, the State commission shall require the remaining eligible telecommunications carrier or carriers to ensure that all customers served by the relinquishing carrier will continue to be served, and shall require sufficient notice to permit the purchase or construction of adequate facilities by any remaining eligible telecommunications carrier. The state commission shall establish a time, not to exceed one year after the State

⁴ *Id.*

commission approves such relinquishment under this paragraph, within which such purchase or construction shall be completed.

The Commission finds that, pursuant to USC 47 214(e)(4) above, there is more than one ETC in the area of relinquishment, and those carriers have sufficient facilities for the provision of service. The Commission also finds that SI Wireless has proposed to provide sufficient notice to its customers to enable those customers to seek alternative service providers.

The Commission being sufficiently advised, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that SI Wireless's request to withdraw as an ETC is granted. This case is now closed and removed from the Commission's docket.

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By the Commission

ENTERED
DEC 11 2019
KENTUCKY PUBLIC
SERVICE COMMISSION

ATTEST:



Executive Director

Case No. 2019-00385

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